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Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

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HABITAT PROGRAM

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January 26, 2004

Mr. Greg Hueckel, Assistant Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Hueckel:

I would like to commend Travis Nelson, WDFW Area Habitat Biologist for WRIAs 10, 11, and 12, for the valuable assistance he provided Tacoma Water during the planning and construction of our Pipeline No. 1 replacement project on the White River in 2003.

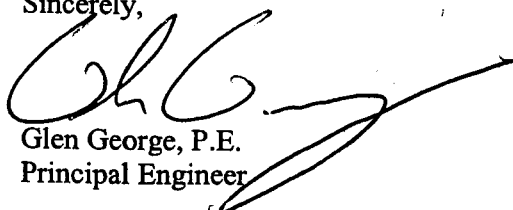
Pipeline No. 1 transmits the City of Tacoma's municipal water supply from the Green River in King County to McMillin reservoir located in the South Hill area of Puyallup. The pipeline was constructed in 1912 and crosses under the White River channel at River Mile 23.3. In the 1920's, a concrete structure was built in the channel over the buried pipeline to prevent river flows from undermining the pipeline. Over the years, as flows have been altered and the structure aged, it became an impediment to upstream adult fish passage.

This past summer, we removed the concrete structure and original pipeline, and buried a new pipeline under the White River channel at a depth that precludes the need for a protective in-channel structure. The primary reason for doing this work was to provide unobstructed fish passage through the reach of river crossed by our pipeline. We estimate the pipe we replaced would have functioned adequately for several more decades had we not done the project.

Travis got involved with the project when we began meeting with agencies and tribes with jurisdiction, and the public to explain our proposal. In his role as the Area Habitat Biologist, Travis helped us plan the project to ensure proper consideration for fish and river resources. During in-channel construction, he was frequently present on site to make sure our contractor was performing the work with the least possible impact on the resource; and as river flows were temporarily diverted to a bypass channel and crews salvaged fish from the dewatered channel, Travis provided oversight to see that the salvaged fish were handled properly and returned quickly to the river.

Throughout his involvement in our project, Travis demonstrated responsible stewardship of the White River fisheries resources. Our project was implemented more smoothly because of his involvement.

Sincerely,



Glen George, P.E.
Principal Engineer

GG:nr

cc: Travis Nelson, WDFW